

TOWN/UNIVERSITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE
Tuesday, December 8, 2009
Audrey Beck Municipal Building, Council Chambers

Minutes

Present: P. Barry, M. Beal, R. Ganim, T. Haggerty, M. Hart, J. Hintz, E. Paterson, J. Saddlemire, S. Rhodes, N. Silander, W. Simpson

Staff: M. Capriola, J. Jackman, R. Miller (UConn), G. Padick, C. VanZelm

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 4:07 pm.

2. November 10, 2009 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Simpson to adopt the minutes of November 10, 2009 as presented. Corrections were noted to members in attendance. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Compost Facility

Mr. Miller presented an update on the Compost Facility project. The 10,000 sq. ft. facility will reduce waste generated by the Agriculture College by 50%. The facility will also reduce greenhouse gases and will better protect water quality from runoff contamination. Agriculture waste and landscaping waste will be composted; no food waste will be composted at this time. Mr. Miller reviewed the site advisory process, site evaluation criteria, Laurel Brook site visit, and construction process. Truck traffic to/from the site will be on state roads and is anticipated to be a few times per week for transporting solid manure and once every other week for transporting liquid manure. The project is anticipated to be online by the end of the year.

4. Updates:

A. Mansfield Downtown Partnership (MDP). Ms. van Zelm provided an update. MDP has received 9 letters of intent from businesses interested in locating to Storrs Center. Winter Fun Day activities are scheduled for February 13th from 11am-2pm at the Mansfield Community Center. MDP has a new Facebook page. MDP will host a forum for UConn students in February about Storrs Center. MDP now has an opening on its Board for a student representative.

B. Mansfield Community Campus Partnership (MCCP). Ms. Silander provided an update. Fall outreach visits to off campus students were successful. Kevin Grunwald (Town) succeeded in obtaining grant funds to conduct alcohol server training to bars and package stores (for example). MCCP discussed issues around litter on Hunting Lodge Road, which included enforcement efforts.

C. Quality of Life Committee. Mr. Rhodes provided an update. The Committee is researching/discussing the idea of a tenant registry. The Committee is also reviewing/discussing the feasibility of adding site parking plans to the landlord registration process. The Committee recently heard from the Windham/Eastern Connecticut State University Town/University Relations Committee about quality of life issues they have in neighborhoods that students reside in.

5. UCONN Drainage Master Plan.
Mr. Miller provided an update and reviewed the project sequence and timeline. Examples of projects include "green" parking lots with porous or permeable surfaces; two have already been installed (Greer lot and Towers lot). Mr. Miller presented the plan to the Mansfield Conservation Commission on November 18, 2009.
6. North Hillside Road Extension.
Mr. Miller provided an update on the project. The University has received both state and federal funding for the project. Both the state and the federal government require environmental impact review (EIR) studies to be conducted; the EIR for the state is complete and the EIR for the federal government is in process.
7. West Classroom Building. Mr. Rhodes provided an overview of the project. West Classroom building will be for the social sciences. The facility will be 67,000 sq. ft. and located on the site of the old Pharmacy building next to the Student Union. The building will have a green roof, swales for water run-off, solar panels, recycled construction materials, green cleaning products, etc. It will be a 2 year construction process. The East Classroom building will follow on the site of the old Co-op building next to the Library. Plans for the building are underway but no funds have been released for the project.
8. 2010 Meeting Schedule.
The Committee may alter its regular meeting schedule for 2010 and meet on Wednesdays. The Committee will have a special meeting on January 12, 2010 and determine its 2010 meeting schedule then.
9. Other Business/Announcements
Youth Services is hosting a volunteer appreciation event following the Town/Gown meeting for UCONN students that have helped with the youth homework group.
10. Opportunity for the Public to Address the Committee
None.
11. Meeting adjourned at 5:32pm

Next Meeting: January 12, 2010

Respectfully Submitted,
Maria Capriola, Assistant to Town Manager